to the States and UTs to conduct the BPL Census to identify the BPL families in the rural areas who could be provided assistance under the various programmes of the Ministry. For the 10th Five Year Plan, the Ministry had issued the guidelines to conduct the BPL Census 2002 based on the methodology of 'Score Based Ranking' of the rural households by using the 13 socio-economic parameters with each parameter having a score from 0-4. This methodology was recommended by the expert group constituted for purpose after having detailed consultations and discussions with academicians, States and other stakeholders. The Survey work under BPL Census 2002 has been completed by almost all the states. The States and UTs have been given flexibility to decide the cut off score in order to identify the prescribed number of BPL households in the rural areas which could be uniform for the state as a whole or may vary from one region to another region within the state. According to available information, states such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Tripura have proposed to adopt uniform cut off score, however, other States like Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Orissa have opted for different cut off scores for different districts/regions.

Administrative expenditure of NREG

2561. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has opposed to raise the level of administrative expenditure of the NREG: and

(b) whether Government would consider the request from States like Kerala to increase the share of fund to implementing the NREG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Union Cabinet has approved enhancement of administrative expenses under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) from 2% to 4% of the total cost of the project.